

Submitter: Michael Getty
On Behalf Of: Medical Travel
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3297

I oppose HB 3297 for several reasons: (1) Oregon's taxes are among the highest in the nation. We do not need new taxes; (2) Oregon needs to economize its budget and stop wasting money on the pipe dream of combating "climate change" and support the basics; and (3) much of us who live in eastern Oregon have to travel hundreds of miles for medical care each year. Taxing those of us that are retired, and of course those who are financially unable to afford the additional tax that is designed to restrict travel, will result in less health care.

For my family we have to travel 200 miles every six weeks for specialized medical care. That equates to over 1,700 more miles in addition to our annual normal mileage. And I don't want to hear the argument that medical mileage is deductible. It doesn't even come close to offsetting the actual cost. Being retired and growing older we may have to periodically travel up to 200 miles one way for future medical conditions.

HB 3297 will punish those of us in eastern Oregon who have to travel, for example, to Medford, Bend or OHSU for specialized care. HB 3297 needs to be thrown in File 13 as fast as you can find a trash can.

No on HB 3297.